

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St SW
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Jacqueline Bray
Commissioner
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
1120 Washington Avenue
Building 7A Suite 710
Albany, NY 12246

Re: New York City Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

Dear Administrator Criswell and Commissioner Bray:

We are pleased to write in support of New York City agencies' subapplications to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs. When awarded, these nine projects will advance resilience in New York City (the City) through planning and shovel-in-the-ground projects that will meaningfully reduce risk to New Yorkers – particularly the City's most socially vulnerable – to climate change and extreme weather events.

We are committed to taking action to protect our city and prevent future tragedies like those from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Ida, but we cannot do it alone. We are thankful for the support your agencies have provided thus far to New York City, but we need to do more. Climate change is increasing the City's risk of experiencing tropical storms, flash flooding, and extreme heat. To combat climate change we are working to aggressively tackle these problems citywide by ramping up coastal resiliency, cloudburst infrastructure, and heat mitigation projects. New York City needs additional federal support through FEMA's BRIC and FMA programs to protect our infrastructure and communities.

The City is a national leader in resilience and mitigation and has been a successful and impactful steward of Federal natural hazard mitigation and resilience funded projects. We are strong advocates for agencies seeking funding sources such as BRIC and FMA. Critically, we recognize the value of implementation and will support these projects in efficiently building resilient and cost-effective infrastructure for New Yorkers. With so many New Yorkers facing flood risk and vulnerability to natural hazards, we have a moral imperative to protect our residents and advance infrastructure protection efforts throughout the City.

A brief description of each project submitted to BRIC and FMA for FY 2022 is below:

Project Name	Agency	Project Description	Cost
Coney Island Creek Shoreline Protection Project (BRIC)	EDC	The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will design and construct a shoreline protection project to mitigate tidal flooding and storm surge for the neighborhoods of Sea Gate and Coney Island, as well as portions of Brighton Beach. This area faced six feet of storm surge during Hurricane Sandy that breached both the oceanfront as well as the low-lying area along Coney Island Creek. The 3,335 feet of flood protection that will be installed is part of a comprehensive planning effort to protect Coney Island's infrastructure and residents from flooding.	Total: \$73,903,230 Federal funding request: \$50,724,704
Resilient South Street Stormwater Corridor Scoping Project (BRIC and FMA)	EDC	EDC will undertake a scoping project to design stormwater infrastructure measures for the South Street Corridor in Lower Manhattan. The South Street Corridor is one of the lowest lying areas of lower Manhattan and has historically been subject to flooding from storm events, including Hurricane Henri and Tropical Storm Ida. The project would design upgraded drainage infrastructure including new conveyance sewers and sewer regulators.	Total: \$840,000 Federal funding request: \$640,00
Green Infrastructure Scoping Project for Stormwater Flood Hazard Reduction (BRIC)	DPR	New York City Parks will undertake a scoping study to develop a citywide pipeline of potential green infrastructure opportunities. Many Parks-owned properties are located near residential and commercial flooding hotspots; the project will include preliminary designs for green infrastructure improvements at up to 15 sites that will reduce stormwater risk and help mitigate climate impacts.	Total: \$966,398 Federal funding request: \$736,304

Project Name	Agency	Project Description	Cost
Borden Avenue Veterans Shelter Flood Resilience Project (BRIC)	DSS	The New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) will floodproof the Borden Avenue Veterans Residence and its utilities infrastructure to a 500-year flood elevation. During Hurricane Sandy, the facility was inundated with four feet of floodwater and raw sewage, resulting in the loss of residents' belongings and extensive damage to the facility. This project will strengthen a crucial housing lifeline for homeless veterans in the face of increased flood risk due to climate change.	Total: \$4,885,865 Federal funding request: \$3,722,563
DCAS Trades Shop Waterfront Flood Resilience Scoping (BRIC)	DCAS	The New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) will study coastal flooding protection measures to protect its waterfront Trades Shop at 390 Kent Avenue. The site experiences shoreline erosion and flooding due to severe storms and storm surges. This project will collect data and develop mitigation strategies, resulting in the selection of a future mitigation project alternative.	Total: \$625,000 Federal funding request: \$468,750
Flood Resiliency Design for Housing (BRIC)	HPD	The New York City Housing & Preservation Development (HPD) will develop schematic designs for flood mitigation strategies at seven Mitchell-Lama co-ops throughout the City. These housing developments experience damage and disruptions from flooding due to coastal storms and extreme rainfall. This project will prepare flood mitigation designs to support the developments in withstanding future flood events, protecting critical building systems, and fostering safer conditions for residents.	Total: \$772,800 Federal funding request: \$588,800
Stormwater Protections for Nostrand & Sheepshead Bay Houses (BRIC)	NYCHA	The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) will design and construct stormwater management infrastructure for the Nostrand and Sheepshead Bay campuses. This project will expand on the cloudburst infrastructure work planned for Nostrand Houses, including the neighboring Sheepshead Bay houses and increasing stormwater resiliency for the neighborhood. The project will integrate cloudburst management into the campuses' open spaces, enhancing residents' quality of life while increasing resiliency through the installation of multifunctional stormwater infrastructure.	Total: \$32,197,924 Federal funding request: \$23,078,517

Project Name	Agency	Project Description	Cost
Corona East Cloudburst Hub (BRIC)	DEP	The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will design and construct green infrastructure measures to reduce flood risk from “cloudburst” events in Corona, Queens. The city is vulnerable to cloudburst flooding, which occurred during Hurricane Ida in 2021 and caused deadly inland flooding and extensive damages. The green infrastructure measures will include porous pavement, storage, and other drainage interventions to capture stormwater and increase resiliency to future storms.	Total: \$81,862,177.60 Federal funding request: \$50,001,418
Kissena Corridor Cloudburst Hub (BRIC)	DEP	DEP will design and construct green infrastructure measures to reduce flood risk from “cloudburst” events in Kissena, Queens. The city is vulnerable to cloudburst flooding, which occurred during Hurricane Ida in 2021 and caused deadly inland flooding and extensive damages. The green infrastructure measures will include porous pavement, storage, and other drainage interventions to capture stormwater and increase resiliency to future storms.	Total: \$123,113,128 Federal funding request: \$50,000,000

New York City is adapting to the realities of climate change in real time and doing everything we can to keep New Yorkers safe. We are committed to projects, like those described above, that will help rebuild our city and ensure a lasting recovery. We thank you for your consideration of these important applications to the BRIC and FMA grant programs and look forward to further discussing the project benefits.

Sincerely,



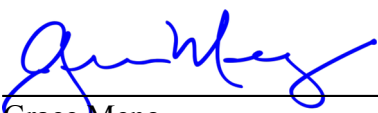
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



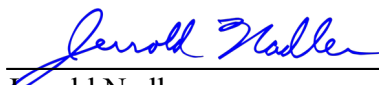
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



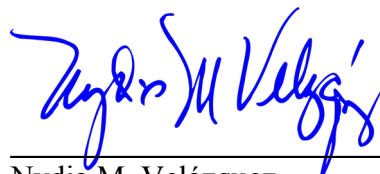
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



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